



Montgomery County Council

For Immediate Release

May 9, 2002

Contact: Patrick Lacefield 240-777-7939 or Jean Arthur 240-777-7934

Oversight yields ZERO water & sewer rate increase for 5th straight year...

COUNCILS APPROVE WSSC OPERATING BUDGET

The Montgomery County Council today joined its Prince George's counterpart in approving the operating budget for the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) for the coming year, confirming a zero water and sewer rate increase for the fifth consecutive year.

This freeze on rates is the fruit of efforts by the two councils starting in 1994 to control WSSC spending and promote more efficiencies.

Last year, the major bond rating agencies recognized those results by upgrading WSSC's bonds to triple-A, the highest rating. Last month, the agencies reaffirmed the triple-A rating.

"This is great news for Montgomery families," said Council President Steve Silverman. "It's all part of our commitment to a 'lean and mean' WSSC – no rate increases, a streamlined operation, and a reduction of WSSC's outstanding debt."

"The County Council recognizes that the WSSC has accomplished so much in a relatively short time," said Councilmember Isiah Leggett, who chairs the Transportation & Environment Committee.

"Strong leadership and a resourceful reorganization have enabled the agency to become much more effective and efficient in its operations. Now the residents of Montgomery County and Prince George's County will enjoy a fifth year without a rate hike." # # #

**N
E
W
S

R
E
L
E
A
S
E**